

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING SERVICE ACQUISITION IN  
A LOCAL AREA NETWORK DEVICE**

**ABSTRACT**

5           A method of and WLAN device that is arranged and constructed to control  
service acquisition includes a transceiver for coupling to a second WLAN device; a user  
(I/O) for interacting with a user; and a controller for deciding whether the transceiver  
will enter a service acquisition mode thereby coupling to said second WLAN device by;  
determining a parameter that corresponds to a present environment for the WLAN  
10 device; comparing the parameter to a predetermined value to provide a comparison,  
the predetermined value defining, in part, an environment where service for the WLAN  
device is desirable; analyzing the comparison according to a rule to provide a decision;  
and enabling the service acquisition mode when the decision is favorable; and  
otherwise forgoing service acquisition.